

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cylindrical ballistic tracer platform for holding and carrying an integrated inseparable tracer element having a bottom, the tracer platform designed for use with a shotgun shell having a shot holder and propellant, the tracer platform being to be positioned within the shotgun shell to fill the space between the shot holder and the propellant, the tracer platform having a closed nose to be positioned proximate to the shot holder and a bottom to be positioned proximate to the propellant, having a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant, the tracer platform having the tracer element being disposed away from the shot holder, the tracer element filling a coaxial cavity having a lower end at the bottom of the tracer platform, the bottom of the tracer platform and the bottom of the tracer element being shaped to leave a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant.
2. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element comprises a cylindrical housing containing pyrotechnic material susceptible to ignition upon burning of the propellant.
3. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 2 wherein the housing of the tracer element further contains a fire-suppressing agent.
4. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element is selected from the group consisting of electrical material, reflective material, chemiluminescent material, and pyrotechnic material.

5. (Previously Presented) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has a ballistic coefficient equivalent to a shot pellet's ballistic coefficient.
6. (Previously Presented) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 5 wherein the tracer platform is made from one or more of the materials selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, lead, neoprene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane, rubber, steel, polytetrafluoroethylene, and titanium.
7. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform further has a diameter in the range of 0.2 inches to 1.25 inches.
8. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the nose of the tracer platform has a shape selected from the group consisting of flat, conical, and spherical.
9. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has formed therein symmetrical cavities for holding weights for the adjustment of the tracer platform's weight and flight characteristics.
10. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with grooves formed therein.
11. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with symmetrically-positioned fins attached thereto.
12. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with orifices formed therein.

13. (Currently Amended) A shotgun shell with a tracer for making shot projectiles visible to a shooter comprising:

- (a) a hollow shotgun shell having a lower end and ~~and~~ an upper end;
- (b) a base with primer for ignition located inside the lower end of the shotgun shell;
- (c) propellant positioned proximate to the primer;
- (d) a shot holder holding shot pellets located inside the upper end of the shotgun shell;
- (e) a cylindrical ballistic tracer platform for holding and carrying an integrated inseparable tracer element having a bottom, the tracer platform being positioned inside the shotgun shell to fill the space between the shot holder and the propellant, the tracer platform having a closed nose and ~~a bottom~~ having a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant, the tracer platform having a bottom, the tracer element filling a coaxial cavity having a lower end at the bottom of the tracer platform, the bottom of the tracer platform and the bottom of the tracer element being shaped to leave a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant.

14. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element comprises a cylindrical housing containing pyrotechnic material susceptible to ignition upon burning of the propellant.

15. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the housing of the tracer element further contains a fire-suppressing agent.
16. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element is selected from the group consisting of electrical material, reflective material, chemiluminescent material, and pyrotechnic material.
17. (Previously Presented) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has a ballistic coefficient equivalent to a shot pellet's ballistic coefficient.
18. (Previously Presented) The shotgun shell of claim 17 wherein the ballistic tracer platform is made from one or more of the materials selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, lead, neoprene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane, rubber, steel, polytetrafluoroethylene, and titanium.
19. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform further has a diameter in the range of 0.2 inches to 1.25 inches.
20. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the nose of the ballistic tracer platform has a shape selected from the group consisting of flat, conical, and spherical.
21. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has formed therein symmetrical cavities for holding weights for the adjustment of the tracer platform's weight and flight characteristics.
22. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with grooves formed therein.
23. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with symmetrically-positioned fins attached thereto.

24. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with orifices formed therein.

25. (New) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element is made inseparable from the ballistic tracer platform by means selected from gluing, interference fitting, and injection molding.

26. (New) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element is made inseparable from the ballistic tracer platform by means selected from gluing, interference fitting, and injection molding.